



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Southwestern Region
Forest Health
Arizona Zone Office

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File Code: 3410
Route To:

Date: September 27, 2001

Subject: Negative Gypsy Moth Traps

To: District Ranger, Payson RD, Tonto NF, Attn: Walter Thole,
Recreation/Wilderness Staff

Thank you for your prompt response to my request for monitoring the gypsy moth traps in the Payson area. The traps you left at the District office for me were negative. The moths in those two traps were definitely not gypsy moth. As I indicated, two moths were caught in one trap at the Payson Campground, at site 74. Those moths were confirmed to be gypsy moth.

I met with David Madison and two other staff members from the Arizona Department of Agriculture in Payson on Thursday, August 30, 2001. We surveyed the area where the trap had been placed and interviewed the campground manager. The campground manager had recently come from Maryland. He said that the gypsy moth had been at outbreak population levels when he left and that he had spent much time removing egg masses from his RV and other equipment. An inspection of his vehicle showed no signs of gypsy moth life stages. Several other gypsy moth traps that had been deployed in the Payson area were checked at that time. All traps examined were either negative or missing. No signs of a gypsy moth infestation were found at the time of the visit.

To insure that no population of gypsy moth has established itself, a meeting to plan a delimiting grid of gypsy moth traps in the Payson area for 2002 will be held later in the fall. A portion of the trapping grid will be placed on National Forest land. I will very likely be contacting you to request assistance in deploying or monitoring the traps. I will keep you updated on any developments in this situation. It is imperative that we do not allow an infestation of gypsy moths to get established in Arizona.

Thank you again for your help with the detection trapping. We have not had an established population of gypsy moth in Arizona, and I believe that is due in part to the conscientious vigilance of folks like you.

/s/ Roberta Fitzgibbon
ROBERTA FITZGIBBON
Entomologist, Forest Health,
Arizona Zone

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